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Filmmakers Jérémie
and Janelle Wookey.
BRAEDEN JONES/METRO



MÉTIS IN FOCUS

Siblings invite community to share their tales — in video
metroNEWS

Wards reviewed

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Some say
boundaries
not reflective
of city growth



Stephanie
Taylor
Metro | Winnipeg

The city is embarking on a review of its ward boundaries in time for the 2018 municipal election.

Establishing a ward boundaries commission was OK'd during Wednesday's executive policy committee, with a report stating the last time the boundaries were reviewed was 2009.

Those boundaries, according to the report, are based upon 2006 StatsCan census data.

That means the population growth seen over the past decade, particularly in the city's south end, is not reflected in

the current ward limits, which some councillors believe needs to change.

"It's a very live issue in the south end," Coun. Brian Mayes told Wednesday's committee.

He said the city's four largest wards are all located in the South End, listing off St. Boniface, St. Vital, South Winnipeg and River Heights-Fort Garry, as examples.

The plan is to have staff use data from a census planned for May in order to review ward boundaries in 2017 — hopefully in time for the civic election the following year, Mayes explained. "We've reached the stage where Coun. (Janice) Lukes' ward, and I think mine as well, we are the equivalent of an entire provincial riding."

Lukes said the population of her ward sits around 64,000 — nearly double the size of other wards.

The city charter legislates a review of boundaries every 10 years.

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The Portage and Main intersection WIKIPEDIA COMMONS

PORTAGE AND MAIN

'Breathe new life' into intersection: Mayor



Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Winnipeg

Winnipeg's mayor is ready to "breathe new life" into one of downtown's most historic intersections, which has been closed to pedestrians for 40 years.

Brian Bowman said he recently spoke with expert Tim Tompkins — who is visiting our city, and credited with opening up New York City's Times Square to pedestrians — about lessons that can be put towards the city's efforts to open up the corner of Portage Avenue and Main Street.



We want to make sure there's a robust dialogue with the property owners.

Brian Bowman

"It's a question of how do you address the need for traffic flows for pedestrian safety, and how do you make an intersection even more iconic than it is right now," Bowman told reporters. "Portage and Main is at the centre of our city, the centre of our country. It is a historic intersection, and what we're looking to do is to breathe new life into that intersection."

One of those lessons, Bowman said, is the importance of public engagement.

Not only with residents, but also with the affected business owners, particularly those in the underground concourse, he added.

"We want to make sure there's a robust dialogue with the property owners. That's something that's really important to me."

Bowman said Wednesday he spoke with several property owners, and none have indicated any opposition to the project.

Metro reached out to a few businesses, but had received no response by deadline.

Deadline for language programs extended

EDUCATION

Classes need 20 registrants in order for it to go forward



Braeden Jones
Metro | Winnipeg

Rumours of the Winnipeg School Division's new language classes

being at capacity are exaggerated, according to WSD spokesperson Radean Carter.

"Somehow one of our local media reported the Cree and Ojibwa bilingual programs were fully booked and that was incorrect," she said.

WSD is hoping to be the first division in Winnipeg to establish two new indigenous language programs in Cree and Ojibwa, as well as a Spanish program and new French bilingual school next fall.

Both indigenous language programs had about 15 registrants as of the deadline, but require 20 students from the division to be registered in order for them to be established, so the deadline has been extended to February 16.

"We are short just a few and hope the extra couple of weeks gives students the chance to register because we know interest is there," Carter said.

The Spanish bilingual program that a large group had called for had only 10 kids signed up before

the deadline was extended, and again needs 20 in order to be established.

"We know there were a lot of presentations from the group that wanted Spanish... indicating there was a lot of interest, so they actually have to register in order for us to run the program," Carter said. "We extended the deadline so that anybody who for whatever reason was interested and wasn't able to get registered can get the chance."

WITH FILES FROM EVAN MATTHEWS



THEATRE THE POWER OF A PLAY In celebration of Black History Month, the Manitoba Theatre for Young People presents The Power of Harriet T until Feb. 14 at the MTYP Mainstage. The one-act play follows Canadian hero Harriet Tubman and her struggles against racism. MTYP/HANDOUT

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Variety adds spice to annual show

The Winnipeg Comedy Festival is “turning up the star power” for its 15th year, according to organizers.



Watch for stars like 1 Andy Kindler, 2 Brent Butt, 3 Mary Walsh and 4 DeAnne Smith as the festival runs from April 3-10. ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Artistic director Lara Rae says there will be “more stars and more variety” at this year’s Winnipeg Comedy Festival, including the return of festival favourites, new acts and more local flair.

“We’ve also increased the definitions of comedy to include more storytelling, music,

more sketch comedy and more improv,” Rae said.

The festival, running April 3-10 will open with a special Sunday show by stand-up veteran Louie Anderson at Club Regent Event Centre.

The Gala Series at Pantages Playhouse kicks off April 7, when Rae will perform in a new show, *Born This Way*, hosted by Corner Gas star Brent Butt, which celebrates what makes people unique.

“Anxiety, dyslexia, sexual

orientation, gender orientation,” Rae said. “This is something new and will be my first television set since I transitioned.”

Other shows range from the nerdy-as-it-sounds *All Geek to Me*, hosted by Naomi Snieckus with Greg Morton, Cheryl Hann of *Picnic Face* and others, to the

self-evident *Truth Bomb* show hosted by Canadian comedy star Mary Walsh.

There will also be a Best of the Fest show, a BLT show, hold the G, “because gay men get a fair amount of attention and can take a year off,” and a 15th anniversary show hosted by Sean Cullen and featuring fes-

tival favourites like John Wing and Darryl Lenox.

New this year will be *Weird Al Karaoke at Jekyll and Hyde’s Freehouse*, which is also the spot where a “very successful women’s open mic night” has provided a launching pad for 10 women to make their amateur debut during the festival.

“And we return again with two Winnipeg shows, one featuring the best of Winnipeg’s local circuit... one called *Neighbourhoods*, where storytell-

ers, comics and musicians talk about the neighbourhood they grew up in,” Rae said.

There will also be a storytelling show — held on a Winnipeg Transit bus — called *Definitely Not the Opera*.

“We’re obviously not just getting on a bus, we are chartering one (for that),” Rae joked.

More information on all of the dates and comics attending can be found at winnipegcomedyfestival.com.

“This is something new and will be my first television set since I transitioned.” Lara Rae on *Born This Way*

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Conrad's small arms make it hard for him to flag down a taxi. MEG CRANE/FOR METRO

Meet Conrad, our own T-Rex

POP CULTURE

Inflatable seven-foot dino favours 7-11 Slurpees

**Meg
Crane**
For Metro | Winnipeg

Videos of T-Rexes venturing through the world have suddenly appeared on social media feeds everywhere — but did you know Winnipeg has one, and his name is Conrad?

"We've taken it on spontaneous walks to 7-11," said Sean Piper, who bought the seven-foot inflatable costume in October, then gave it the name.

On one particular trip to 7-11, Piper's friends put a leash around the T-Rex's neck for the walk, then left Piper

standing outside in the costume while they went in.

"I didn't know if they'd let me in or not. It said 'no pets,'" Piper said.

A group of men in their early 20s got out of their car to take turns snapping photos with Conrad while everyone inside stared. "People are drawn to it," Piper said.

Piper, who works in a call centre, said his boss has even asked him to put it on while in the office.

Although it's gotten mixed reactions from children, adults tend to stop to take photos or yell at it from cars, said Piper.

Piper doesn't like being the centre of attention, but he said when he's in the suit, it's

the T-Rex getting the attention, not him.

"It pretty much brings smiles out wherever you take him," said Piper.

So far, Piper has mostly just taken Conrad for walks around his neighbourhood, although there was one trip to Wheelies Roller Rink and another to go tobogganing.

"We plan to try to put him in as many funny situations as possible," Piper said.

This summer, Conrad is expected to go fishing, head to Bird's Hill for a day of hiking and spend some time wandering through Assiniboine Park.

"Winnipeg can get boring at times, but then you see a T-Rex walking down the street to get a Slurpee."

“It pretty much brings smiles out wherever you take him ... We plan to try to put him in as many funny situations as possible. Sean Piper

FILMMAKING PROJECT

Preserving the Métis identity

**Braeden
Jones**
Metro | Winnipeg

Sibling filmmaking duo Janelle and Jérémie Wookey are trying to preserve a snapshot of Métis culture and are crowdsourcing to broaden the scope of the project.

They are asking 100 Métis people ages 15 to 40 to record videos sharing what their heritage and identity means to them and upload those videos to their new website: 100Metis.ca.

"There's a wide gamut in terms of how people process their Métis (identity)," said Janelle Wookey. "People still have a lot of questions about what it means and why does it matter. Those are the questions we are trying to answer."

She sees the website as a potential long-standing archive to preserve the modern Métis cultural identity, formed by stories and personal narratives of the past.

"If we are lucky, (the website) will be around for generations and people will learn who we were 30, 40 years ago," she said.

Wookey learned about her Métis lineage 10 years ago, and made a film seven years ago about the last three genera-



Jérémie and Janelle Wookey BRAEDEN JONES/METRO

“People still have a lot of questions about what it means and why does it matter.

Janelle Wookey

tions of the Red River Métis.

During that project, a great niece of Louis Riel, Augustine Abraham, said in an interview for the film that her wish for

the future was for Métis youth to "dig deep" to keep the spirit of the Métis alive.

The 100Metis.ca project is an answer to that call, and by giving people a forum for sharing their lived perception of Métis culture the Wookeys hope to show who the Métis are, where that identity comes from, and where they are going as a people.

They are also creating a documentary about the process and will be accepting video submissions for 100 days.

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Mayor Brian Bowman named public transit, active transport and roadwork among his priorities. STEPHANIE TAYLOR/METRO

Bowman's focus on building

FUNDING

Mayor has infrastructure top of mind for civic summit



Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Winnipeg

Asking the federal and provincial governments to open their pockets to cover some of Winnipeg's infrastructure bills is a top priority for Brian Bowman, who is jetting off to Ottawa this week for a meeting of Canada's mayors.

Bowman said Wednesday he and the rest of the civic leaders would descend on our nation's capital for the Big City Mayors' Caucus, hosted by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Myriad issues will be discussed at the conference, with infrastructure near the top of the list, said Bowman.

"We are the level of government that is closest to the people. We understand the priorities in our jurisdictions better than, I believe, other levels of government," Bowman told reporters.

Bowman named public transit, active transportation and roadwork as some of his priorities for when — or if — the

Liberals' infrastructure dollars start to flow.

Also thrown into that mix is the Build Winnipeg Partnership, in which the feds and province are invited to "sit around the table" to help the city plan out its long-term transportation needs, Bowman added.

And who can forget the hundreds of millions of dollars the city will dole out over the coming years to pay for nearly \$1 billion in wastewater treatment-plant upgrades, not to mention the between \$1 to \$4 billion it was recently revealed to cost to keep raw sewage out of our rivers and Lake Winnipeg.

"In terms of federal money for water and waste matters, that's something that we need to have continued discussion (on) with our provincial partners," Bowman said.

He was careful not to pit transportation infrastructure against what he called environmental infrastructure in assessing his priorities.

"We do need to be able to address both simultaneously. It is not one or the other," Bowman said.

To afford the future investment required to protect the city's waterways, he again pointed to the need for Manitoba to devise a new municipal funding formula.

PETS

Stolen dog kennels may be infectious

A Manitoba dog rescue is warning that two recently stolen kennels contain traces of an infectious disease.

Manitoba Mutts Dog Rescue took to social media Monday, saying two of their kennels had been nabbed from outside supply homes on Roberta Avenue in East Kildonan.

"The fact that the kennels were stolen is not our main concern," the Facebook post reads. "The concern is that those two kennels housed our 3 Stooges

parvo pups when they came into care, which means they are infected with parvo, a highly contagious, potentially deadly disease to dogs that are not fully vaccinated."

The rescue says both kennels were stickered with a Manitoba Mutts Dog Rescue tag, and one kennel was a mix of blue and grey, while the other was cream coloured. Kijiji shoppers are being warned to disinfect any kennels they purchase with bleach or just throw them out. METRO



Parvo is a potentially deadly disease to canines. ISTOCK

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6

Winnipeg metro NEWS



Company removed driver after reports of behaviour surfaced. METRO FILE

Bus driver fired for peeing in public

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Video shows him urinating from steps of school bus

A Winnipeg school bus driver who was caught on video urinating from the steps of his bus has been fired.

A woman called First Student Canada in early January after she saw the driver repeatedly urinating in public.

The woman, who doesn't want to be named, says the bus company acknowledged

that the driver's behaviour was unacceptable.

She says she repeatedly called the company when the driver did it several more times.

First Student Canada said Tuesday that the company doesn't condone the behaviour and the driver has been terminated.

The woman says she didn't want to see the bus driver lose his job, she just wanted him to stop.

"I didn't want anybody to lose their job here. I didn't want any drastic measures taken in that sort of way," she said.

She says the worst part is her children saw it happen.

"Our oldest daughter said, 'Oh, I've seen him do it every day this month, mom.' I was horrified to learn that ... It's not something you want your children watching or witnessing."

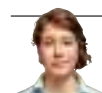
CJOB/THE CANADIAN PRESS



Our oldest daughter said, 'Oh, I've seen him do it every day this month, mom.'

EFFICIENCY

GPS could track city services



Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Winnipeg

A new form of GPS tracking could be installed on some of Winnipeg's snow-clearing equipment by next winter, according to the head of the city's public works department.

Lester Deane said they are just waiting on budget approval to move ahead with plans to install automatic

vehicle locators (AVL) technology on some of the municipal fleet in order to better track the equipment's whereabouts.

One of the priorities, he said, is to study how tracking can be implemented for sanding and salting operations.

"Maybe next is insect control," Deane said.

Essentially, the new technology would provide real-time information to staff as to the length of time an operation took and where it happened, in order to "address

any gaps" in service, he said.

He explained the plan is to first implement the new technology in-house, but he's open to the idea of requiring private contractors to employ a similar form of tracking devices for their equipment in future.

"If we think there's value in asking contractors to provide that same sort of information in upcoming contracts, we'll weigh the cost and the benefits of that," Deane said.



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau greets refugee families who recently arrived in Canada at an open house of the Masjid Al-Salaam Mosque in Peterborough, Ont., Sunday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Needs of refugees steadily growing

SYRIAN CRISIS

Government-assisted groups will face more issues: Analysis

As the Liberal government's target date to resettle 25,000 Syrian refugees inches ever closer, a government analysis of those who've already arrived paints a sobering picture of the resettlement challenge ahead.

Data obtained by The Canadian Press shows that government-assisted refugees have more children, lower language skills and lower education levels compared with those being resettled by private groups.

Here's a look at what it found, and some of the implications for resettlement providers.

■ Bigger families

53 per cent of approved cases listed five to eight people on the application, raising concerns for the current housing crunch. It's harder to find apartments to accommodate that many people within available budgets.

■ They're younger

55 per cent of approved applicants were 14 years of age or younger, compared with 27 per cent of privately sponsored ones. Services directly targeted at children will need to be stepped up.

■ Language barriers

67 per cent of approved applicants reported speaking neither English or French. In some cities, wait lists for language training are over a year long.

+ SECURITY

U.S. senators probing Canada's refugee plan

The U.S. Senate committee for homeland security is studying the implications for U.S. security from Canada's refugee program. The committee is hearing from two Canadians who have criticized the Trudeau government's refugee plan, including a representative of U.S. border guards who says the border is porous and needs more guards and a trade expert.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

■ Lower education levels

The report notes that many Syrian kids are a year or two behind their peers, putting new demands on the school system. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Members of Canadian navy charged with drug offences

The Canadian navy says two members of a warship have been charged with drug offences by Japanese police.

Police detained two military members and a civilian employee on Monday for the alleged use of a controlled substance. The charges follow a port visit to Tokyo by a Halifax-class frigate with a crew of about 250 personnel.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

INFORMATION LAWS

'Cultural' shift may open government

The Liberals' promise to pry open government requires nothing less than "cultural change" within the public service, warn documents obtained by Torstar News Service.

Treasury Board President Scott Brison was told in November there are significant hurdles to the Liberals' campaign pledge to reform access-to-information laws, make government information open by default and more effectively

communicate with the public.

Documents prepared for Brison describe a federal culture of "limited disclosure, insular policy making," which takes into account the "federal view only."

To implement the Liberals' ambitious democratic reform agenda, that culture will need to shift to one of "proactive release, engagement and connectivity (and) broad leadership on open government."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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HEALTH

Heat helps spread of Zika virus

In its brief lifespan, the mosquito that carries the Zika virus is caught in a race: Will it pass the disease to humans before it dies?

Weather might make the difference. Scientists say the hotter it gets, the more likely the insect can spread disease.

"With higher temperatures you have more mosquitoes feeding more frequently and having a greater chance of acquiring infection. And then the virus replicates faster because it's hotter, therefore the mosquitoes can transmit earlier in their life," said entomologist Bill Reisen of the University of California Davis.

In general, mosquitoes don't live long, maybe 10 to 12 days on average, said Tom Scott, a University of California Davis professor of both entomology and epidemiology.

Warmer air incubates the virus faster in the cold-blooded mosquito. So the insect has more time to be infectious and alive to spread the disease, Scott said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BLOOD DONORS

The agency responsible for most of Canada's blood supply says people who have travelled outside of Canada, the continental United States and Europe will be ineligible to give blood for 21 days after their return.

Canadian Blood Services says it is implementing the waiting period to mitigate the risk of the Zika virus entering the Canadian blood supply. CBS says the new waiting period is being implemented across the country and will take full effect in all of its clinics starting on Feb. 5.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



MIGRANTS 'THIS, ABOVE ALL, TO THINE OWN SELF BE TRUE' The words from Shakespeare's Hamlet rang out on the most unlikely stage on Wednesday — a squalid migrant camp in the northern French port of Calais, known locally as the "jungle." The audience of migrants from the Middle East to Africa would almost certainly have preferred to see London's renowned Globe theatre company perform the Bard's famous play in his native country on the other side of the English Channel. Yet, up to 300 people bundled against the cold wind to watch the outdoor show on a wooden stage beside the small Good Chance theatre, set up last fall to help fill the void for the displaced camp residents of the sprawling camp. THIBAUT CAMUS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Afghan insurgents kill 10-year-old child soldier

MIDDLE EAST

Boy had fought against the Taliban with militia

A 10-year-old Afghan boy who was declared a hero after fighting the Taliban has been shot dead by insurgents while on his way to school, officials said Wednesday.

Wasil Ahmad, who had fought the Taliban alongside his uncle on many occasions, was killed Monday near his home in Tirin Kot, the capital of the southern

Uruzgan province, said deputy police chief Rahimullah Khan.

The 10-year-old boy had been a local celebrity of sorts, with widely circulated photographs on social media showing him holding an automatic weapon and wearing a uniform and helmet.

Ahmad's uncle was a former Taliban commander who changed allegiance to the government and was appointed local police commander in Khas Uruzgan district, Khan said.

The use of child soldiers is illegal in Afghanistan, but the charity Child Soldiers International said both government forces and insurgents have been



Wasil Ahmad TWITTER.COM

recruiting minors for years.

The organization's policy and advocacy director Charu Lata Hogg told The Associated Press that the Afghan government, despite pledging to stop the recruitment and use of children

by the Afghan security forces, was making "slow and tardy progress."

"There is a lack of political will to address this issue, and while it's within the framework of overall human rights violations, there is a specific commitment by the government to clean it up but sufficient measures are not being taken," she said.

In a June 2015 report presented to the UN Security Council's working group on children and armed conflict, the London-based charity said children were recruited by the Afghan National Police and the Afghan Local Police. It said the recruitment was

mainly driven by poverty, but also filial duty, patriotism and honour.

Rafullah Baidar, spokesman for the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, said local police had hailed the boy as a hero after he battled a Taliban siege following the death of his father.

"One side made him famous and the other side killed him — both sides ignored the law and acted illegally," Baidar said.

Afghanistan ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1994, committing the country to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEXUAL ASSAULT

Judge rejects bid to throw out Cosby case

A judge has decided not to throw out the sexual assault case against Bill Cosby on Wednesday, sweeping aside claims that a previous district attorney had granted the comedian immunity from prosecution a decade ago.

Common Pleas Judge Steven O'Neill issued the ruling after a hard-fought two-day hearing.

The case now moves to a preliminary hearing to determine whether there is enough evidence to try the 78-year-old Cosby on charges he drugged and violated former Temple University

athletic department employee Andrea Constand at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004. The TV star could get up to 10 years in prison if convicted.

In 2005, then-District Attorney Bruce Castor decided the case was too flawed to prosecute. But Castor's successors reopened the investigation last year after Cosby's lurid, decade-old testimony from Constand's civil suit was unsealed after dozens of other women came forward with similar accusations.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Russian cosmonauts install new experiments on the International Space Station. NASA VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPACE

Cosmonauts collect experiments, toss USB

Spacewalking Russians gathered seeds and spores that have been stuck outside the International Space Station for months, if not years, and gave a ceremonial send-off Wednesday to a flash drive containing special messages for their motherland.

Cosmonaut Sergey Volkov waited for good camera views before tossing the flash drive overboard toward Earth as the space station sailed 402 kilometres above the Pacific.

The flash drive includes vid-

eos and messages pertaining to the 70th anniversary of Russia's Victory Day last year. It was attached to a small bundle stuffed with towels to provide some bulk.

With that accomplished, the spacewalkers set off to retrieve research equipment that has been outdoors since 2009. The trays include plant seeds as well as spores from fungi and bacteria; the specimens typically were replenished every year or two and returned to Earth for analysis. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lowe's offers \$3.2B for Rona takeover

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Acquisition gives U.S. giant a strong base in Quebec

Following a long and sometimes stormy courtship, Lowe's Companies Inc. announced Wednesday that it has a deal to buy Quebec-based Rona Inc.

for \$3.2 billion, creating the largest home improvement retailer in Canada.

The agreement provides for an all-cash purchase price of \$24 per common share and \$20 per preferred share (all figures in Canadian dollars).

The offer represents a premium of 104 per cent to Rona's closing common share price yesterday, and a 38 per cent premium to its 52-week trading high \$17.36.

As part of the agreement, Lowe's agreed to headquarter the Canadian businesses in Boucherville, Que., maintain Rona's many retail store banners, and enhance distribution services to independent dealers. It also agreed to allow Rona to continue to employ the vast majority of its current employees and maintain key executives from Rona's leadership team and to continue Rona's local and ethical procurement

strategy and potentially expand relationships that both Lowe's and Rona have developed with Canadian manufacturers and suppliers.

The value of Rona shares shot up more than \$11 on the news, to \$23.41, an increase of nearly 100 per cent.

The acquisition accelerates Lowe's growth strategy in Canada, giving it a strong base in Quebec.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Rona Inc. will keep its retail store banners as part of the agreement with Lowe's. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

SHOPPING

Canadians using less cash: Study

Canadian consumers are more inclined to reach for their smartphones and credit cards over bills and coins to make purchases, according to a new study.

Market and consumer information firm GfK conducted an online survey of 1,000 Canadians as part of a larger study on shopping behaviours.

In 2015, only 25 per cent of Canadian transactions were in cash, a decline of two percentage points from 2014. Meanwhile, credit cards accounted for the majority of transactions at 42 per cent, unchanged from the previous year.

"We also saw a number of years ago in this country a very concerted effort by the card companies to get people to start using their cards for smaller payments. That clearly has worked," said Stephen Popeil, vice-president of GfK Canada.

"We're clearly seeing that the use of cash is getting less and less in this country. Is it ever going to disappear? I don't think so, because of the nature of certain economies that are out there. But clearly, what we are seeing now is every year

fewer and fewer payments are being made with cash."

Debit cards were at 28 per cent, followed by mobile device payments at three per cent. Each category saw marginal growth of a percentage point each compared to 2014.

In the case of mobile payments, GfK found that they tend to skew to younger and higher-income Canadians, as well as among urban dwellers and those with a higher education. But the high-tech payment method is also catching on with boomers and those of the silent generation born between 1925 and 1945. "What we saw this year versus last year

is a nice little increase in ... perception of these benefits," said Popeil. "More boomers and more older retired Canadians from the silent generation are now acknowledging that mobile payment systems are easier and faster and more efficient."

Despite the convenience afforded by mobile payments, Popeil acknowledged the research revealed concerns over security among consumers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Older retired Canadians ... are now acknowledging that mobile payment systems are easier and faster.

Stephen Popeil

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IN BRIEF

Toyota gives up on Scion

Toyota is killing its Scion brand after years of slumping sales. Beginning in August, 2017 model-year Scion vehicles will be rebadged as Toyotas. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Scion was formed in 2003.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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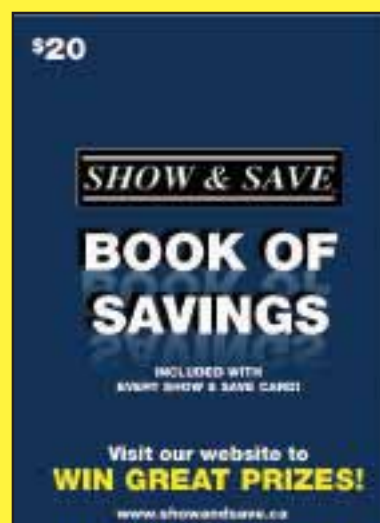
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CHANTAL HÉBERT: ON THE POLITICS OF OILSANDS



If Trudeau cannot get along with Rachel Notley, he is unlikely to get along with any Alberta government. But ... the real test of their relationship will be the resolution of the pipeline file.

Kudos to Justin Trudeau and Alberta's Rachel Notley for taking the time to talk face-to-face about the province's economic challenges on Wednesday. The Liberal prime minister has a compelling interest in keeping the channels open with the NDP premier.

If Trudeau can't get along with Notley, he is unlikely to get along with any Alberta government. Her two top advisers — Richard Dierini on the public-service side and Brian Topp in the more political role of chief-of-staff — know the federal capital inside out and have worked with the federal Liberals in the past.

Dierini served in a senior role in the unity backrooms of Pierre Trudeau's government at the time of the 1980 Quebec referendum. Topp was Jack Layton's lead negotiator in the talks that led to the 2008 Liberal-NDP coalition accord.

But while the prime minister can offer Notley some financial relief in the upcoming federal budget, the real test of their relationship will be the resolution of the pipeline file and the fate of Alberta's efforts to connect the oilsands to tidewater.

It is by far the most contentious issue on the federal-provincial radar. Yet, this is one national discussion that is unlikely to be resolved between first ministers. To date, the lead players in the debate have mostly been municipal

politicians.

Here are a few of them: Joanne Monaghan was the mayor of Kitimat, B.C., on whose watch a plebiscite was held on the Northern Gateway pipeline in 2014. As the end point for the pipeline bringing oil from Alberta, Kitimat would be home to a marine terminal where tankers would load up. Almost 60 per cent of her constituents voted no, driving another nail in the coffin of the moribund \$6.5-billion Enbridge project.

Derek Corrigan is the mayor of Burnaby, B.C. The Trans Mountain pipeline runs through the city, and its corporate owner, Kinder Morgan, wants to triple its capacity. Corrigan is hardly the only Vancouver-area mayor to oppose the pipeline but he is one of the most vocal. Last May, he told a community meeting he

was prepared to be arrested and see his political career come to an end to stop the project. He called last week's federal announcement of an expanded consultation process and an extended approval timeline a disappointment.

Marc Demers is the mayor of Laval, Quebec's third-largest city, and one of 82 Montreal-area municipal leaders who came out against the Energy East pipeline. While most Canadians see Denis Coderre as the face of the region's opposition to TransCanada's current plans, Demers has been campaigning hard against the pipeline since early last fall.

Gilles Lehouillier is the mayor of Lévis, across from Quebec City. He turned down TransCanada's plan to locate a terminal for the Energy East pipeline in his city and remains ambivalent about the

project as whole.

There are mayors in the pro-pipeline camp who are not from Saskatchewan and Alberta — the two provinces whose oil industry needs access to a coast — but their support tends to be more tentative than the opposition of some of their mayoral colleagues.

Quebec City's Régis Labeaume gave his support in principle to the Energy East pipeline last week. In the same breath, though, he said TransCanada had proven inept at addressing the environmental concerns arising from the project.

Mel Norton, the mayor of Saint John, N.B., where some of the oil delivered by the pipeline would be refined, also supports Energy East, but his municipal council wants more definitive answers from TransCanada as to its benefits for the region.

Canada has hit upon defining issues that have pitted region against region in the past. Think of the National Energy Program in the early '80s, the 1988 free-trade agreement with the United States — opposed by Ontario but supported by Quebec and Alberta — and three divisive constitutional rounds. But none of those discussions engaged Canada's municipal politicians in the way that this one does.

No mayor holds a veto over a pipeline, but it will be hard to secure a social licence for any project absent more support from the political leaders who are closest to the day-to-day life of so many voters.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

The media is two-faced when it comes to sexual assault

If you are sexually assaulted, you can have your day in the media, and then have your day in court.

But if you want a conviction, your first call should probably be to a lawyer.

Watching the first two days of Jian Ghomeshi's trial, which resumes today, it seems the press will work against you in the court.

Marie Henein, Ghomeshi's lawyer, made hay from every detail in every statement the first witness made — in four media interviews and to police — that did not line up, just so, with her chief testimony in court on Monday.

It's not clear what the inscrutable Justice William Horvath thought, but to the gallery it appeared as if Henein, while never explicitly challenging that Ghomeshi punched the woman in the head three times, systematically shredded her credibility.

At this point, avoiding the courts, as many of Ghomeshi's accusers have, seems the more judicious move.

Not only have they had their stories heard by the country, they got results. Ghomeshi lost his job. The CBC endured a scathing inquiry into management's culpability in a caustic work environment at Q, Ghomeshi's show. Ontario launched a high-profile, \$41-million anti-sexual-assault campaign.

It's a rare reckoning that

only happens if you have a Ghomeshi-calibre celebrity as your alleged abuser. And even then — people who sexually assault people should be convicted. Ironically, media interviews can undermine that.

"It's not that you're set up to fail," Jacob Jesin, the witness's lawyer, told me yesterday.

"It's that every statement you make, outside of being in your lawyer's offices, is fodder for cross-examinations."

It seems highly likely that anyone telling a story would alter some aspects along the way, but in court, there is little room for memory's foibles or the slow recollection of details, like whether the witness was wearing hair extensions. Pile up enough seemingly small deviations, and the story begins to take on water. In fact, the best way to seem reliable on the witness stand seems to be to actually have a script and, to use Jesin's words, "Stick to it."

Not only have the witness's comments to the media given the defence ample ammunition, but the press — a sympathetic listener when the witness first came forward — will tell your difficult story and also print your bikini shot.

Today is expected to start with a request from members of the media to publish the bikini photo the witness sent Ghomeshi in 2004. Their "public interest" cuts both ways.

THE MICROTREND: A whiter shade of male



The artist Andy Warhol once wrote, "When you've got grey hair, every move you make seems 'young' and 'spry.'" Perhaps, then, the pressures of modern life have millennial men feeling their age already, because stars such as former One Direction member Zayn Malik, 23, and vlogger Tyler Oakley, 26, are leading the trend toward pastel-grey locks for younger guys. It's a toned-down version of the frosted-metallic look for women, and a black-and-white reversal of the fad from just a few years ago. Back then, middle-aged men flocked to salons in droves to "reshade" (never "colour," that's for women) their greying tresses in hopes of competing with the young and energetic talent hitting an atrophied job market. SOURCE: THE NEW YORK TIMES

This is one national discussion that is unlikely to be resolved by first ministers.

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While almost 80 per cent of Canadians drink, many are unaware of the health risks associated with alcohol consumption, says country's chief public health officer Dr. Gregory Taylor.

Martel on faith, love and iPhones

BOOKS

Living with loss in The High Mountains of Portugal

Melita Kuburas
Metro | Canada



When bad things happen in life, how do we react? To whom do we turn for help?

In his new book *The High Mountains of Portugal*, Yann Martel dissects moments of human suffering post-tragedy — not to explore how his characters overcome, or succumb to, their loss, but to find out how they *live* with it?

"I wanted to start with people who have lost something very, very precious, and where they go from there," Martel says. "When it gets bad — what do you do, what do you reach for?"

First we meet Tomás who, one by one, within the span of a week, loses his son, his lover, his father. His heart unravels. He tries to protect himself from further assault by walking in reverse; facing the elements with the toughness of his back. He then sets off in search of a treasure hidden in a village church, located in Portugal's mountain range, not on foot but driving his rich uncle's car — a new technology in the early 1900s, one that he hates and doesn't really know how to use.

In the book's Part 2, we meet Euse-

bio Lozora, a pathologist who gets a strange visit from a widow on New Year's 1939. She wants an autopsy, but not to find out how her husband died. "I want to know how he lived," she insists.

More than 40 years later, in the book's Part 3, Canadian senator Peter Tovy is frustrated with his broken family and becomes enamoured with an ape at a chimpanzee sanctuary in Oklahoma. He buys Odo and goes with his new gargantuan pet (nay, friend) to live in the same village in Portugal, Tuizelo, which connects all three stories.

Much like the plucky teenage protagonist in *Life of Pi*, Martel's Booker Prize-winning bestseller, the grieving characters in *High Mountains* find solace in what the author describes as a "curious phenomenon called faith."

It's a subject Martel is intrigued by, even though it's become unusual in many social circles to talk about God and religion in any way that's not underlined with cynicism.

BIBLIOTHERAPY

In 2007, Yann Martel began sending Stephen Harper books he thought the then-prime minister should read. What would he send to Justin Trudeau?

"I did that to Harper because I thought he needed betterment. I saw a man who had a dried up narrow vision — profoundly divisive, profoundly destructive. I don't see that in Trudeau."

"We live in a time that's very inhospitable to other-dimensional talk," he says. "It's against the ethos of our times to believe in airy-fairy things called gods."

It's easier to talk about things that are tangible, that can be explained. Technology, for instance, which the author speaks about favourably though he has his misgivings, perhaps in the same way the villagers in *High Mountains* are suspicious of Tomás's automobile.

His iPhone, Martel says, allows him to Facetime with his wife and children currently away in England, communicating across the Atlantic, for free. But the device is only useful if you have someone to talk to. In the end, technology is not going to save anyone from the inevitable.

"The person who believes in nothing but a chemical, material reality, confronted with suffering, has very few tools to deal with that," he says.

"A lot of stuff we derive through our senses. Faith goes beyond that, you know — why you fall in love with one person or one hockey team... there's no real sense to it. Why I love India and am indifferent to another country; why I like Italian food and less so Chinese food — there's no logic to that. But that's who I am."

In other words, when we let go of our rationality, we open the door for magic.



Just this week, Yann Martel released his new book, *The High Mountains of Portugal*. He will tour across Canada in March. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO CANADA

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BOOKS OF HISTORICAL FICTION FOR WINTER NIGHTS

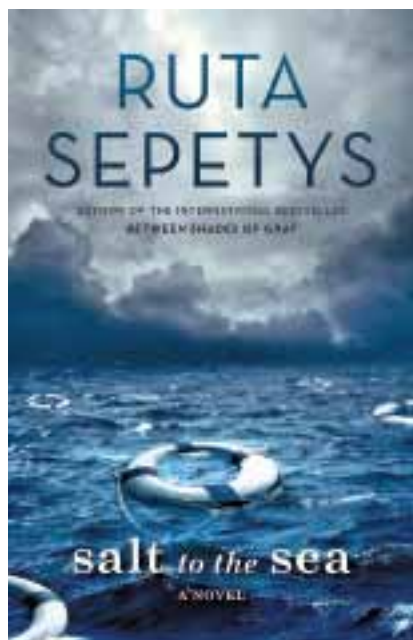
From a swashbuckling love story set in Syria in the time of Richard the Lionheart, to two '90s English girls struggling with ties to the Holocaust, these historical novels will keep readers intrigued **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

1 **Salt to the Sea**

Salt to the Sea (Philomel Books, \$24.99) is described by its publisher as "Between Shades of Gray meets *Titanic*" — a reference to author Ruta Sepetys' own bestselling book and the film epic. It's the end of the Second World War, and, in East Prussia, German troops are retreating from the Russians and thousands of refugees are fleeing for their lives. Among them are three souls, Joana, Emilia and Florian, desperate to reach the former cruise ship, *Wilhelm Gustloff*, now in the Baltic Sea. They make it.

But the war-ravaged tragedy of their lives continues when the Russians torpedo the massive ship and tens of thousands of people fight to survive.

The story, based on the true-life sinking of the *Wilhelm Gustloff*, is told through alternating voices, each unfolding story requiring its own box of Kleenex.

2 **The Other Me**

Author Saskia Sarginson's *The Other Me* (Flatiron Books, \$29.99) moves back and forth in time between past and present. Here, she takes us from Germany in the 1930s, just as Nazism is taking hold, to England in the 1990s where we meet characters who are linked to Germany's fascist past. The story introduces us to two German brothers, one who dedicated himself to the Fuhrer and the other who refused. Years later in separate cities in England, two young girls struggle with their guilt and shame over what their fathers may have done during the Holocaust.

3 **Pillars of Light**

Jane Johnson has given her readers another swashbuckling adventure saga of West meets East in *Pillars of Light* (Doubleday Canada, \$24.95). This time, it's with a story that knits stories of young lovers from the Syrian city of Akka (the Arabic name for Acre) with Englishmen who join Richard the Lionheart's army and ride to free the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem from Saladin and his "infidels."

It is an epic tale of romance between a Jewish doctor and a Muslim woman in Akka, amidst the fear that grips the city when Lionheart's army sets up the longest and cruelest siege of its time.

4 **River of Ink**

River of Ink (Bloomsbury, \$24.99), set in Sri Lanka in 1215, is the perfect winter book for readers who wish to lose themselves in warm breezes and perfumed gardens.

London-born writer Paul M.M. Cooper has crafted a delicious tale of love and palace intrigue that centres on court poet Asanka, who learns that the power of his pen is truly stronger than the sword. A benevolent king dies and Asanka, friend to the dead ruler, is left writing poetry for a new and vicious monarch, Kalinga Magha. Fearful for his life and that of his love, a beautiful servant girl, he agrees to translate an ancient Sanskrit text for the tyrant Magha.



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GRAPHIC NOVEL

Exploring partners' past loves

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada



Years ago, Leanne Shapton was hanging out at her boyfriend's when she noticed he still had photos of his ex-girlfriend in the apartment.

It's an uncomfortable scenario that would make anyone jealous or even suspicious, but the New York-based author-illustrator turned those dark emotions into *Was She Pretty?*, a graphic novel that explores the natural impulse to seek out the personal details of those who came before us in our relationships. Published 10 years ago, the book is now available in paperback for the first time with the venerable comics publisher, Drawn & Quarterly.

"I was fascinated by other's people's experiences and what they did when they confronted their own jealousy," Shapton recalls. Using her friends' and her own experiences — plus many she imagined or were inspired by vintage photos — Shapton drew a series of pen-and-ink portraits of former lovers, accompanied by captions such as "Jacob's parents adored his ex-girlfriend Cynthia" and "Shane's ex-girlfriend was a child prodigy."

"Jealousy is a bad feeling, and yet I didn't want to say, 'Here's



Leanne Shapton fleshes out partners' past relationships, both real and imagined. CONTRIBUTED

how you get over it.' It's definitely not a self-help book. It's a wallowing book, if anything," Shapton says.

A decade ago when *Was She Pretty?* first came out, Twitter was just in its infancy and Instagram hadn't been invented yet. While Shapton's book doesn't deal with how social media has become a handy tool for those looking to cyber-stalk exes, she acknowledges it's affected how we perceive ourselves and others.

"I think that makes for your imagination about what you don't know about people to get even more inflamed and to grow even more," she says. "The book is much more about the assumption that people come and go in your lives."

Other than a new cover de-

sign and the ink colour, the contents of *Was She Pretty?* have not altered from the first edition. Shapton, on the other hand, has observed changes in her own attitude toward the green-eyed monster. Growing up in Toronto, Shapton was a competitive swimmer, an experience she chronicled in her 2012 illustrated book *Swimming Studies*.

"Ten years out, my competitive streak has blunted, so it's fun to look back at this more competitive version of myself," she says. "I'm a much less jealous person because of all the experience I have now. But it's still such a fresh thing. It can flare up, like a rash."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

Love, murder, intrigue make good television



Ben Whishaw plays a young Londoner trying to solve the mystery of his lover's murder. HANDOUT

INTERVIEW

British writer uses plot twists and slow reveals in London Spy

Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Hollywood



British writer Tom Rob Smith makes his first foray into writing for television with the twisting, mysterious London Spy, about a young Londoner named Danny (Ben Whishaw), who meets Alex,

a reserved math genius. The two become lovers, then Alex disappears and Danny discovers he was a spy — and Danny is being framed for his murder. Danny's ensuing hunt for the truth leads to British intelligence giant MI6.

Your first work, Child 44, was a novel adapted into a movie. How did making a TV series change your approach?

With the novel it was just a case of you believe in it, you go away and you write it and then you find a world for it. And this was kind of similar. I didn't have any TV experience, I hadn't written an

original drama before, but I knew that I wanted to tell the story and I knew it was TV. I knew it wasn't film, and I also knew it wasn't a book. It's like first-person narrative through the eyes of the main character, played by Ben Whishaw.

What were your ways into tackling the process of writing for TV?

With the first episode, there was a lot of debate about pace. One of the things I love about TV is you have more time. The conventional story — your partner is murdered and you take on the question of who murdered them — has been

told countless times. With this, we have enough time to work out what their love story is as a particular love story without it being a shorthand. Let's spend a bit of time with these two people. Love stories aren't all the same — we fall in love for completely different reasons. I wanted to understand that these two people were both lost for very different reasons. You have someone who's very hedonistic and then you have someone who's deeply closeted, locked into a world of people who are dark and dangerous. In London, those two worlds stare at each other.

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

American Idol's final act is full of beauty

THE SHOW: American Idol, Season 15
THE MOMENT: The Final Auditions

Crackling with craziness, a young woman bounds into the audition room and announces to judges Jennifer Lopez, Harry Connick, Jr. and Keith Urban, "I'm 23 years old and I'm a singing nomad."

Lopez, who moves through life looking permanently airbrushed, says, "I could never do that."

"You couldn't sleep outside?"

Connick asks her. "You could build a shelter out of your assistants."

"That would work," Lopez replies (she knows who she is).

The crackling girl, who can't sing, looks bewildered. The judges dismiss her. But nicely.

The awareness that this is American Idol's final season has reinvigorated everyone.

The contestants are fresher. The panellists, nestled in their niches — Urban feels the music, Lopez is the mama (sweet and stern), and Connick is both cutup and musical sophisticate — have found an engaging banter.

AI has always been about hope, kids from nowhere dreaming of stepping through a magic door into a bigger, better life.

In the Simon Cowell years, there were two ways that hope could go: terrible singers were mocked for their delusion while



The American Idol judges have found an engaging banter in their final season of the show. CONTRIBUTED

credible candidates were moved along in a hard-nosed manner until their story had been exploited fully.

Thankfully, the show has mellowed as it's matured.

The current judges are as much about making music as they are about selling it. They're attuned to the place songs hold in people's lives.

When they talk about con-

necting to a song, and connecting through a song, they mean it. They're looking for that lump in the throat. And that makes great TV.

American Idol airs Wednesdays 8 p.m. on Yes TV and Fox.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

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MEET THE CONDO

Prairie views, convenient location

Project overview

Want a room with a view? Bluestem Condominiums face open prairie grasslands — that means you're surrounded by the sights and sounds of nature. Conveniently, the everyday amenities of the growing Sage Creek neighbourhood in southeast Winnipeg are just steps away from these three-storey townhouses. Condominium ownership means less time on upkeep more time to frolic in the fields.

Location and transit

It's a 15-minute drive to downtown from Sage Creek and an even shorter drive to the amenities of Regent Avenue (Kildonan Place shopping centre), the University of Manitoba or St. Vital Centre. The location, near the outskirts, also means a quick getaway to cottage country. The Archibald transit route delivers riders downtown on weekdays.

SHEL ZOLKEWICH/FOR METRO

In the neighbourhood

A grocery store, coffee shop, liquor store, gas station, banks and restaurants are all within walking distance at Sage Creek's Village Centre. The second phase of this commercial space will provide more amenities for all residents. Plans are underway to add a sculpture park and more walking paths to the neighbourhood that will include a school with a child care centre.

Housing amenities

Bluestem boasts private entries, front porches and second-storey sun decks, perfect for summer barbecuing. Single and double attached garages are popular features. Interiors are finished with modern designer touches. Several floor plans feature bathrooms on all three floors. A landscaped common area and adjacent walking path offers an easy route to amenities in the Village Centre.

BLUESTEM CONDOMINIUMS



CONTRIBUTED

+ NEED TO KNOW

What: Bluestem Condominiums
Builder: StreetSide Developments
Architect: StreetSide Developments
Location: 155 Des Hivernants Blvd.
Building: Nine, three-storey buildings with 75 townhouses
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Pricing: \$299,900 to \$352,600

Suites: Two and three bedrooms with attached garages
Status: Now selling
Occupancy: Move-in-ready
Sales centre: 109-155 Des Hivernants Blvd.
Phone: (204) 955-3922
Website: bluestemcondos.ca

INTERIORS

Missoni Home presents floral fabrics at Paris Déco Off

High-end Italian fashion house Missoni presented its new collection of fabrics this week at Paris Déco Off, a design showcase that takes visitors around brand showrooms in the French capital.

With Rosita Missoni at the helm of Missoni Home, it's no surprise to see her love of colour channeled in these vibrant new fabrics.

Oriental Garden

One of six fabric collections presented, Oriental Garden is based on a pattern from a silk cape, known as Saturno, designed by Missoni in 1971.

Missoni Home reclaimed the pattern for its 2016 textile collection, with bold flowering

branches blooming in different designs, including a macro print on cotton with a checkerboard of matte and shiny finishes, and micro embroidery on satin fabric. Two sets are available, with turquoise, amethyst, slate and onyx on a sandy coloured background, or coral, rosewood and shades of amethyst and sage on a turquoise background.

Missoni Home's Floral Galaxy pattern, right, was inspired by a flower-filled English garden.



Anemone

Anemone is a flagship line this season for Missoni.

Inspired by the flower of the same name, it juxtaposes large and small flowers in shades of blue and green against black and white blooms.

Black and white appear again in the Anemones Dream fabric, alongside touches of pink, yellow and purple.

Fireworks

Fireworks uses a rainbow design, which along with

chevrons is a hallmark of the Missoni brand. The bright colours are set against a black and white background.

Tropical Fish

The Tropical Fish line of outdoor fabrics puts colourful fish in a lively print. (Prices on request.) AFP

+ BACKGROUND

Rosita Missoni founded Missoni 60 years ago with her husband, Ottavio.

She left the fashion side of things to her children in 1997 and turned her attention to Missoni Home.



Anemones Dream is one of six new fabric collections from Missoni Home. ALL PHOTOS: MISSIONI HOME/HANDOUT



COURTESY KROFT + CO

Kroft + Co

The "slow designed" and "undressed" furniture of Kroft + Co, based north of Toronto, stands out for its Scandinavian-like simplicity and surface material that from a distance looks like blackboard paint but on closer inspection is way more grown up. "It's linoleum," says Dustin Kroft, the company's director of product management.

"It's very widely used in Europe and is one of the greatest surface materials you can find. In fact, all the court rooms in the U.S. use linoleum on their counters because it's the greatest writing surface."



TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Yusuf Mannan

Getting things off the floor seems very definitely the way of the future, as we move into increasingly tight spaces, but the inspiration for furniture designer Yusuf Mannan's multipurpose storage and display system, The Peg Project (made from maple and birch), comes from the past in the "minimalism of the Shakers."

"No screws, no hardware. I just want to use wooden details and the old traditional hand tools," he says. "It's lightweight and for somebody who likes to move things around easily."



COURTESY ABDE NOUAMANI

Abde Nouamani

Melbourne, Australia, has a brilliant design scene and Abde Nouamani represented it well at IDS16.

A recent furniture design graduate in that city, Nouamani was raised in Morocco's Casablanca and his Acorn mirrors reflect the ancient Egyptian tradition of polishing copper until it provides a reflective surface. "The problem with copper is that it tarnishes very quickly after a couple of days and you have to polish it again, but brass on the other hand doesn't."

3 BEST NEW DESIGNS AT THE INTERIOR DESIGN SHOW

For those interested in design but intimidated by the pretension that can sometimes accompany it, events like the recent Interior Design Show offer a fun way to see the work of design superstars alongside fresh blood. Here are three that stood out

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Bombers buck up with
Pierce as new QB coach

CFL

34-year-old
spent last two
years directing
running backs

No one ever doubted Buck Pierce's passion for throwing the football, or his ability to take the hits. Now the former quarterback will be safely re-connected with the position he loves.

The Winnipeg Blue Bombers announced Wednesday that Pierce is switching to be the team's quarterbacks coach after two seasons overseeing the running backs.

"It'll be good," Pierce said at a news conference. "When I retired, this is the point that I wanted to get to, back in that quarterback room."

"The last two years have been great for me and I've learned a lot."

The 34-year-old retired in March 2014 after nine seasons in the CFL that were interrupted by a variety of injuries, including concussions.

The last few seasons haven't been kind to Winnipeg's quarterbacking crew or the team, which has missed the playoffs for four straight years and six of the past seven seasons.

Last year's squad had its quarterback depth tested when



Buck Pierce played in 130 CFL games before retiring. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

starter Drew Willy suffered a season-ending fracture and partial torn ligament in his right knee on Aug. 9.

Winnipeg used backups Brian Brohm (released last month) and Robert Marve (retired last September) and made a trade with Edmonton to bring in veteran

Matt Nichols. The upheaval was one of the reasons the Bombers finished 5-13.

Willy is on the road to recovery and Pierce is looking forward to working with him and Nichols, who was a pending free agent before being resigned last month.

"At the end of the day, my job is to help whoever's playing that position be successful," Pierce said.

"For Drew, he does a lot of really good things. He could be one of the best quarterbacks in the league, in my eyes. And now it's just part of my job to

“

I'm the
quarterbacks
coach right now
and I'm excited
about being in
this role.

Buck Pierce

get him there."

Pierce started his playing career with the B.C. Lions in 2005, joined Winnipeg as a free agent in 2010 and was traded back to B.C. part way through the 2013 season.

When he hung up his helmet, his resumé featured 15,289 yards passing and 76 touchdown tosses in 130 games.

Pierce married a woman from Winnipeg in 2013 and they have a 10-month-old daughter. He was involved in a local restaurant but said he gave that up when he got too busy coaching.

His new role brings him back together with re-hired offensive co-ordinator Paul LaPolice, whom he played under as Winnipeg's starter during the 2010-12 seasons.

"I had a great relationship with coach LaPolice," Pierce said. "Having the ability to work with him again, I think one of his biggest things was he was very relatable as a coach and player."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Montreal hockey player awarded \$8 million after being left paralyzed

A Montreal-area hockey player who was 16 when he became quadriplegic after a bodycheck from behind propelled him into the boards has been awarded \$8 million.

One of Andrew Zaccardo's lawyers says the amount handed down by a judge might be a record in such a case in any sport.

Zaccardo has been unable to walk and has had to use a wheelchair since being hit by Ludovic Gauvreau-Beaupre in 2010.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Riders linebacker retires, fearing more concussions

Saskatchewan Roughriders linebacker Shea Emry is retiring after eight CFL seasons amid concussion concerns.

The Riders made the announcement Wednesday morning.

The six-foot, 228-pound Emry estimates he has suffered about 10 concussions playing football, including one in Saskatchewan's season-opener that cost him the remainder of the 2015 campaign.

Emry, 29, also played for Montreal and Toronto.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Shea Emry
TORSTAR NEWS
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Wideman to appeal 20-game ban

NHL

Flames veteran unhappy with suspension for sticking official

The NHL suspended Calgary Flames defenceman Dennis Wideman 20 games on Wednesday for cross-checking a linesman during a game last week, the second-longest suspension in NHL history for abusing an official.

Wideman was suspended for violating the league rule on physical abuse of officials after he struck linesman Don Henderson and knocked him down during the Flames' game

against Nashville on Jan. 27.

The NHL Players' Association said in a statement that Wideman is appealing the suspension. "We strongly disagree with the League's decision to suspend Dennis Wideman," the players' union said. "Dennis has played in 11 NHL seasons and almost 800 games without incident. The facts, including the medical evidence presented at the hearing, clearly demonstrate that Dennis had no intention to make contact with the linesman."

The 32-year-old will forfeit \$564,516 in salary as a result of the suspension.

Wideman had a hearing with the NHL's department of hockey operations on Tuesday that included representatives from the Players' Association and NHL Officials Association.

After the game last week, Wideman said he was in pain after a hit from the Predators' Miikka Salo-

NOTABLE BANS

■ **Lifetime:** Billy Coutu for assaulting two referees and starting a bench-clearing brawl (April 1927).

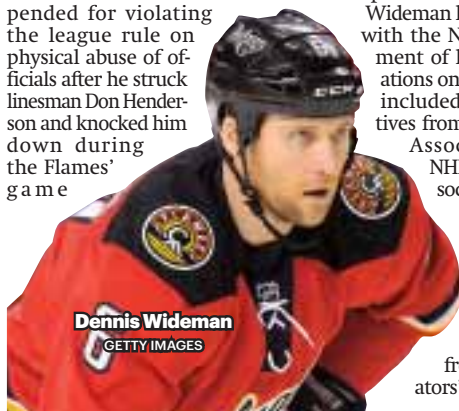
■ **41 games:** Raffi Torres for an illegal hit to the head of Jakob Silfverberg (October 2015).

■ **30 games:** Chris Simon for stomping on the ankle of Jarkko Ruutu (December 2007).

■ **25 games:** Raffi Torres for an illegal hit to the head of Marian Hossa (April 2012). THE CANADIAN PRESS

maki and couldn't avoid hitting Henderson. He was not penalized and skated over to the officials and apologized moments later.

"Throughout my career — and I've been around for a few years — I think I've treated every official with the utmost respect," Wideman said, "and I would never intentionally try to hit a linesman or a ref or anything like that." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Dennis Wideman
GETTY IMAGES



Nashville Predators' players look over the bench at linesman Don Henderson after he was hit by Calgary Flames' Dennis Wideman in Calgary. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Designed by Allan Malbranck

Manning mum on future

SUPER BOWL

Veteran QB may walk into sunset like his boss Elway

The last time the world saw John Elway in a Broncos uniform, he was facing the stands, both hands aloft, holding his helmet in his left hand, and his right hand clenched into a tight, celebratory fist. He flashed that toothy smile, knowing that a few minutes later, he would be cradling his second Super Bowl trophy.

He went out on top. No matter what happened after that — and Elway has gone on to accomplish plenty — his last meaningful moments on a football field had resulted in a victory in the biggest game of all.

"It's a very nice thing to have," Elway said this week, "knowing you can always look back and have a real positive thought."

Now, Elway runs the team he used to play for. In 2012, he signed Peyton Manning,



Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning speaks to reporters prior to the big game Sunday. (Inset) John Elway lifts the Vince Lombardi Trophy in 1998. BOTH IMAGES THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

who, at 39, is even older than Elway was when he played his last game in 1999.

And now, it's Manning who could be taking that same walk into the sunset as Elway did.

It's hard to think those conversations won't pick up steam over the next few weeks.



It's a very nice thing to have.

John Elway on winning the Super Bowl in the final game of his career.

Manning has already told Patriots coach Bill Belichick, in a not-so-private exchange at midfield two weeks ago, that this might be his last rodeo. He has refused to expand on that.

When the game is over, Peyton will have an all-star lineup from which to glean advice. It

includes brother Eli, of course; their father, Archie, who spent 14 years in the NFL; their brother, Cooper, who has long been one of Peyton's best sounding boards. And Elway.

"I was fortunate to be able to talk to my dad (Jack) about what he thought," Elway said. "Because I didn't want it to be different than what I was seeing and what I was feeling."

But the ravages of age on him weren't as glaring as what Manning has displayed at times this season. Manning's 17 interceptions before going to the sideline with a foot injury in November were hard to watch. That he has rebounded and guided the Broncos to the Super Bowl is a testament to his guile and smarts.

If he's holding the Lombardi Trophy on Sunday night, he'll have a chance to join his boss in some very rare company: Two Broncos who rode off into the sunset.

"It's easy to toe the line and say, 'I might retire,'" Elway said. "But to take the final step over the line is always very difficult. It's a hard step to take."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Jays to install new dirt infield at Rogers Centre

The Toronto Blue Jays' infield is getting an upgrade. The team announced Wednesday it will begin installing a regulation dirt infield at Rogers Centre next week that will be ready for the 2016 season. The work will involve excavation of the cement floor in the base path and infield areas to a depth of 30.48 centimetres.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stabler had brain disease, say university researchers

Former Oakland Raiders quarterback Ken Stabler, the late NFL MVP and Super Bowl winner who is a finalist for the Pro Football Hall of Fame, has been diagnosed with the brain disease CTE, Boston University researchers said.

Dr. Ann McKee said Stabler, who died of colon cancer at 69 in July, had widespread Stage 3 chronic traumatic encephalopathy, with "quite severe" damage to the regions involving learning, memory and regulation of emotion.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Volleyball

Duckworth Centre

Duckworth Challenge

Women's Thursday, Feb. 4, 6pm
vs Manitoba

Men's Thursday, Feb. 4, 7:30pm
vs Manitoba

Basketball

Duckworth Centre

Women's Saturday, Feb. 6, 5pm
vs Manitoba

Men's Saturday, Feb. 6, 7pm
vs Manitoba

FREE admission for Wesmen Alumni & Family to Thursday and Saturday games!

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RECIPE Pasta with Peas and Green Onion



PHOTO: MAMA VISNEYE

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

- 1/3 cup olive oil
- Juice of half a large lemon
- 1 Tbsp chopped fresh mint, plus more for garnish

Directions

1. Bring a large pot of salted water to boil over medium heat. Once boiling, add the pasta and cook 7 to 11 minutes, or until al dente. Drain the pasta and pour into a large bowl.

2. Mix pasta with peas, onions and feta. In a small bowl, whisk olive oil, lemon juice and mint. Drizzle dressing over pasta and toss throughout. Sprinkle pasta with another teaspoon of fresh, chopped mint and serve.

Run, don't walk to the grocery store. This dish uses only 5 ingredients (we're not counting the oil, OK?) but yields big flavour and even more leftovers. We call that a dinner trifecta.

Ready in

Prep time: 15 minutes
Total time: 30 minutes
Serves 4 to 6

Ingredients

- 500g rigatoni pasta
- 2 cups fresh or frozen peas, cooked and drained
- 1 1/2 cups crumbled feta cheese
- 1 bunch green onions (about 4), sliced

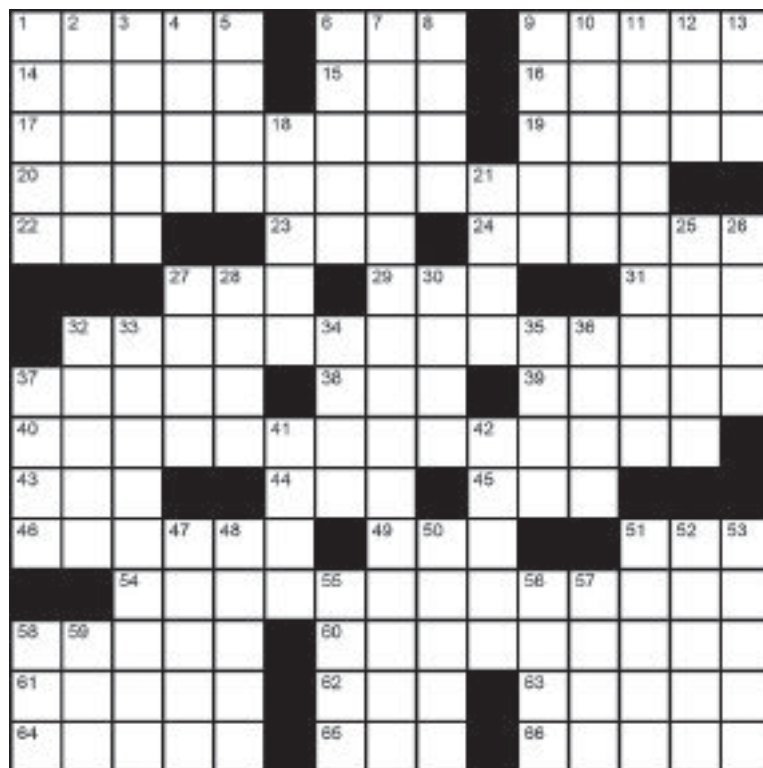
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CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

- Large amounts
- ...la-la
- Mr. Baron Cohen
- Song line
- CD...
- Like some verbs, for short
- As per #32-Across... Bonhomme's grand home in his fantastically frigid kingdom: 2 wds.
- Canadian guitarist Ms. Boyd
- Fast food utensils: 2 wds.
- French seasoning
- Company name abbr.
- Medieval fief holder
- Non-verbal communication syst.
- Be in debt
- "...I... cut myself!" (Veggie chopper's cry)
- Annual event since 1955 currently underway in Quebec City: 2 wds.
- Breadcrumbs of Japan
- "O" of OLP
- Had that burger: 2 wds.
- Hit for Joe Cocker that goes "Baby let me be / 'Cause you don't care...": 3 wds.
- "Not impressed."
- "Yuck!"
- Hardy animal
- A... (Theoretical thinking)
- Big Apple news-



paper [acronym]
51. Help
54. According to the bio of Bonhomme (the mascot of #32-Across), it's his dream to eliminate this in the world: 2 wds.
58. Celebrity chef Ms. De Laurentiis

60. Emotionally cleansing
61. "When does ... lighter out again?" (Hoping-for-Spring query)
62. Dernier... (Latest fashion)
63. Metamorphosis-izer

64. Shrek's beloved
65. Mr. Cobb, and others
66. Hamilton = ... City

DOWN

- Undergarments worn with dresses
- Recurring pro-

cess
3. Expanse-related
4. Plunges
5. "Vamoosel!"
6. Stretch of land
7. "The Last Waltz" (1978) directed by Martin Scorsese and starring The Band: 2 wds.
8. "Indeed!"
9. Region's forest trees
10. Ram's sign
11. ... artists (Singers such as Taylor Swift)
12. Farm bird
13. Palindromic honorific
18. City in northern France
21. Folkie band, Bon...
25. Anticipate
26. Lively tune
27. Ancient Egyptian cross
28. Ancient colonnade
30. Cautious
32. Decliner
33. Visiting the Windy City: 2 wds.
34. Rice-A-...
35. Scot's negatives
36. "Take ... a sign."
37. Shoe style
41. "Correct me ... wrong, but..."
42. Submarine entrance
47. ... days
48. Lasso
50. Abominable snowmen
51. Cavern
52. "Okay, ... up already, what's the answer?"
53. Sticker
55. Bank ...
56. Mr. Holbrook's
57. Smell ... (Be suspicious)
58. Picture file extension
59. "Lord, is ...?" (Last Supper question)

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
They say opposites attract and someone who's as different from you as possible will get your pulse racing. You'll recover your senses quickly, but it could be the love of your life.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Stick to tried and trusted ways, even if some may say it's old-fashioned. Not everything old is wrong and at least you get things done, which is more than can be said for some!

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Don't worry if you find yourself in a minority of one. Being the kind of person who stands out from the crowd, it is inevitable that you will be criticized by those who would prefer everyone to think and act alike.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Someone needs your support and a shoulder to cry on. Do what you can to assist them. It may be emotionally draining but you have been through this kind of scene many times before.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You are in a restless mood, unable to get comfortable in any one place. Why should that be a problem? Why should you stay still? Be adventurous. Boredom is to be avoided.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Why can't some people see sense? You will have to deal with someone whose grasp of logic is non-existent. Make your point, then get away from them as quickly as you can. You're under no obligation to stay.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
It may be hard to think straight today but it's essential if you don't want to get caught up in a big scene. You can't stop others from ranting and raving but you don't have to join in.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You may be tempted to hit back at someone who's giving you a hard time but is it a good idea? They may just be waiting for an excuse to start an open fight.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Someone you thought was a friend will show their true colours and try to convert you to their way of thinking. Let them know that in future they must only give their opinions when asked — in other words, never!

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Someone in a position of authority will get a bit emotional today. Do what you can to calm them down. Not only will they appreciate your advice but they will mark you down as someone who can be trusted.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You will have fun today but you may feel guilty because not everyone is as happy or fortunate as you. Help others get over whatever it is that is bothering them but don't let their mood bring you down.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Negative feelings may be natural but don't let them take over your life. Confront whatever it is that pains you today.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

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